

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in this application.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of renal failure in a mammal, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of levosimendan or its metabolite (R)-N-[4-(1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-4-methyl-6-oxo-3-pyridazinyl)phenyl]acetamide (II), or any of their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing mortality in a mammal suffering from renal failure, the mortality being associated with the deterioration of kidney function, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of levosimendan or its metabolite (R)-N-[4-(1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-4-methyl-6-oxo-3-pyridazinyl)phenyl]acetamide (II), or any of their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.